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PAGE 001  
TOT: 13 OCT 83

TO: EAST ASIA BRIEF.

EAST ASIA BRIEF FOR 13 OCTOBER

CONTENTS

1. NORTH KOREA-SOUTH KOREA: POSSIBLE NEW STRATEGY

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INDICATIONS OF NORTH KOREAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BOMBING IN RANGOON--THOUGH STILL NOT CONCLUSIVE--RAISE THE POSSIBILITY THAT P'YONGYANG IS ADOPTING A MORE AGGRESSIVE STRATEGY TOWARD SOUTH KOREA.

BURMESE SECURITY AUTHORITIES APPREHENDED A THIRD KOREAN SUSPECT. SOUTH KOREAN INVESTIGATORS IN RANGOON REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN

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TOT: 13 [REDACTED] OCT 83 [REDACTED]

GIVEN PERMISSION TO INTERROGATE HIM. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] P'YONGYANG LARGELY AVOIDED HIGHLY VISIBLE TERRORIST ACTIONS DURING THE LATE 1970S. IT VIEWED TALK OF US TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND THE GROWTH OF POLITICAL UNREST IN SOUTH KOREA AS FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SINCE SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT CHUN TOOK OFFICE IN 1980, NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL-SONG HAS BEEN DEALT A SERIES OF SETBACKS IN HIS EFFORTS TO REUNIFY THE PENINSULA ON HIS TERMS. CHUN HAS FIRMLY CONSOLIDATED CONTROL SINCE TAKING POWER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SOUTH KOREA, AS HOST COUNTRY TO A NUMBER OF IMPENDING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, IS ACHIEVING CONSIDERABLE WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION AND PRESTIGE. THE US-SOUTH KOREAN SECURITY RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN REAFFIRMED AND STRENGTHENED. P'YONGYANG MAY HAVE VIEWED CHUN'S VISIT TO RANGOON AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMOVE THE ONE INDIVIDUAL MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE TRENDS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN RANGOON, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARE LESS STRINGENT, AND THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE AN ESTABLISHED PRESENCE IN BURMA. CHUN'S TRIP WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED IN JUNE, GIVING P'YONGYANG AMPLE TIME FOR WHAT APPEARS TO BE A METICULOUSLY PLANNED OPERATION. [REDACTED]

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